

Memorial Post No. 7165. This year marks their 50th anniversary of service to the citizens of Clifton, NJ. They will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on September 21, 1996, with a dinner at the Three Saints Cultural Center in Garfield, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, the history of VFW Post 7165 is a lesson in perseverance and determination. Not only were the original members of the post tested in war, but also in patience.

Without a building or hall to call home, VFW Post 7165 first met in the Clifton Volunteer Fire House. Soon thereafter, they were granted permission to meet in the Acquanonck Gardens Community Center. As luck would have it, Mr. Speaker, the community center was destroyed by a devastating fire before the post was even able to hold its first meeting.

However, the original members of Post 7165 were resolute in their decision not to let this setback ruin their vision of a refuge to honor patriotism. They rebuilt the community center from the ashes of the fire and established the first true home of VFW Post 7165 in the early 1950's. Today, Mr. Speaker, with over 580 members, the post has the largest following in Passaic County,

The large membership of VFW Post 7165 not only selflessly served their country, but continues to donate its time and efforts to help all members of the Clifton community. VFW Post 7165 is involved in a number of charitable and community-oriented activities in Clifton. For example, the post is highly active in the education of young adults. It supports Project Graduation which provides assistance to the Clifton High School graduating class and awards college scholarships to the winners of essay contests. In addition, the post promotes and administers safety program for the youngsters of the city.

VFW Post 7165 also supports and recognizes the police and firefighters for their unyielding allegiance to the community, and champions American patriotism through their appearances at various community functions, marches and parades.

Mr. Speaker, I join Veterans of Foreign Wars Albion Place Memorial Post No. 7165 in their celebration of 50 years of service. I encourage others to emulate their actions and salute their commitment to excellence.

#### DAN CANTU—IN APPRECIATION OF A JOB WELL DONE

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, this week the House of Representatives will be losing one of its finest staff members when Dan Cantu leaves us to begin, with his wife Karin, law school at the University of Chicago.

For the past 4 years Dan has served on the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee, and, specifically, as a staff member on my Treasury Appropriations Subcommittee. Dan Cantu embodies the professionalism and excellence found throughout the entire staff of the House Appropriations Committee. Dan has worked on some of the most difficult, challenging, and technical issues under our subcommittee's jurisdiction. In every instance, he has risen to the challenges pre-

sented him with grace and good humor and helped the Congress reach agreement on what are often extremely difficult fiscal and policy issues.

The House is not only losing an excellent staff member, I am losing someone I have come to rely upon and who has become my friend. All of us on the Treasury Appropriations Subcommittee wish Dan and Karin all the best as they begin their studies.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE CENTER 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very important anniversary which will be commemorated in my district in October. The Domestic Violence Service Center [DVSC] will observe the 20th anniversary of its founding. I am pleased to have the opportunity to commend the center for its tireless dedication to helping women and children in crisis.

Originally called Womencenter when it was first conceived in October 1976, the DVSC began as an assessment agency to focus on the needs of area women. The pleas for help from battered women in the first 6 months was overwhelming. Because of this the Womencenter refocused its purpose to address the issue of domestic violence and how it affects women and children in the Wyoming Valley. A task force was formed to study the issue. The result of that meeting was the founding of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence [PCADV]. The first coalition of its kind in the United States, the PCADV is still a leader in victims' rights issues in the State and the Nation.

In 1977, the Womencenter received a grant to develop a full-time domestic violence program. Services expanded and a liaison with Legal Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania was established.

A speakers' bureau was begun to promote community awareness. In 1978, the task force established the first shelter for battered women in northeastern Pennsylvania. Within 1 week the unadvertised shelter was completely filled to capacity. That June the Womencenter incorporated as the Domestic Violence Service Center. A board was formed and the first officers were elected.

Mr. Speaker, the Domestic Violence Service Center has served the area as a shelter, an advocacy agency, an outreach center, and a counseling center. The DVSC has been on the forefront of public education of domestic violence and involved with other social service agencies and the District Attorney's office in creating a county wide protocol for the handling of domestic violence cases. The center has coordinated with local police forces to create a common protocol in handling the actual distress calls. This program serves as an example to the entire State of Pennsylvania.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, the Domestic Violence Service Center has provided shelter for thousands of battered women who flee their homes often in the middle of the night afraid for their lives and the lives of their children.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of domestic violence affects the entire community. Each year the center conducts a solemn and poignant candlelight vigil at the Luzerne County Courthouse to commemorate Domestic Violence Month. I have had the honor of participating in this event. I am proud to commend the hard-working staff, board of directors, and volunteers on their dedicated effort to help those who would otherwise be trapped indefinitely in a crisis situation. Through their work and dedication they offer a place for women and children to turn to break the cycle of violence. Although this anniversary is not a celebration, it is a call to each of us to help stop this devastation of the American family. Mr. Speaker, I hope this anniversary will expand public awareness of the important work that the DVSC does.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PERSONNELMAN FIRST CLASS CARL JOHN PALMER, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a constituent of mine who has enjoyed an excellent record with the U.S. Naval Reserve is retiring after 20 years of loyal and faithful active service.

Personnelman First Class Carl John Palmer, Jr., began his military career in the U.S. Navy in 1976 at the Recruit Training Center in San Diego, CA. After completion of recruit training in March 1977, he transferred to Attack Squadron Eighty-Two, Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, FL. In June 1978, he was transferred to the Naval Technical Training Center in Meridian, MS, for Personnelman Class "A" School.

Subsequent to graduation from that school, PN1 Palmer enjoyed a distinguished career with the U.S. Navy Training and Administration of Reserve [TAR] program and later transferred to Staff duty at the Naval Reserve Force Management School in New Orleans, LA, and served in a number of other locations, including Orlando, FL, and Boston, MA. In August 1994, he was transferred to the Naval Reserve Center, currently located at the Naval Air Station in South Weymouth, MA, where he remains posted to this day.

Personnelman First Class Carl John Palmer, Jr., has throughout an exemplary career earned two naval Achievement Medals, the Navy Unit Commendation, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, four Good Conduct Medals, the Nation Defense Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Navy Recruiting Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Navy Recruiting Service Ribbon, the Sea Service Ribbon with Bronze Star, the Pistol Marksman Ribbon, six Naval Reserve Recruiting Gold Wreath of Excellence in Recruiting Awards and the Command Career Counseling Badge.

PN1 Palmer is a resident of Pond Eddy, NY. This community, located on the wild and scenic Delaware River, is one of the most breathtaking parts of the beautiful State of New York, and we hope that PN1 Palmer and his family will be staying in our community for a long, long time.

PN1 Palmer will be joined in retirement by his lovely wife, Virginia, also of Pond Eddy. It